



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

VIOLENT GANG MEMBER ARRESTED BY ICE IN BOSTON

Latest Arrest Under ICE's Operation Community Shield

BOSTON—A previously deported 32-year-old member of the violent “Mara Salvatrucha” (MS-13) gang with convictions ranging from assault and battery on a police officer to malicious destruction of property was arrested here Friday by special agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

David Acevedo, a citizen of El Salvador, is in ICE custody at the Plymouth County House of Corrections in Plymouth, Massachusetts awaiting removal from the country. Acevedo now has a 20-year bar of re-entering the United States for being illegally in the country.

“Those illegal aliens seeking to harm the innocent will be found and deported,” said Robin M. Avers, special agent-in-charge for ICE in New England. “Criminals who think that they can hide and evade justice need to think twice. Our agents will continue working tirelessly to find those who pose a threat to our community.”

Acevedo’s arrest is the latest under “Operation Community Shield,” an ICE national anti-gang initiative launched in March to target members of the MS-13. To date, ICE agents, working with their federal, state and local counterparts, have arrested more than 155 MS-13 members nationwide.

Operation Community Shield is designed to disrupt and dismantle violent gang organizations and prosecute their members by employing the full range of authorities and investigative tools available to ICE. Under this initiative, ICE is employing its broad immigration authorities, both criminal and administrative, against gang members. At the same time, ICE uses its customs authorities to target narcotics smuggling and money laundering and to seek the forfeiture of assets.

Operation Community Shield draws on strong partnerships and cooperation with existing federal, state and local anti-gang efforts. Such partnerships are essential to the success of the initiative and to ensure officer safety during operations. Locally, ICE has partnered with the North Shore Gang

Intelligence Unit, run by the Boston Police, the Boston Police Gang Unit, the Lynn Gang Unit and the Somerville Gang Unit.

Under Operation Community Shield, ICE has also taken several new steps to help other federal, state, and local agencies identify and target gang members. ICE's Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC) in Vermont is playing a critical role in this effort. The center is running MS-13 gang member data provided by state and local law enforcement agencies through various ICE and Homeland Security databases to help these agencies identify and locate violent gang members.

The law enforcement actions to date have been conducted in coordination with law enforcement at the federal, state and local levels. ICE will also be working through its 54 Attaché offices overseas to cooperate with foreign governments that are also experiencing gang problems, particularly those in Central America.

Recently Michael J. Garcia, Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for ICE, in testimony before Congress, announced the results to date of Operation Community Shield. To view Assistant Secretary Garcia's testimony go to www.ice.gov.

The Boston and Winthrop Police Departments assisted with Acevedo's arrest.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.